

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**January 3, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**MASK GUIDELINES**

CC Riojas recited the City of Toppenish Mask Guidelines to advise that masks are required for all individuals, in accordance with Governor Inslee's Orders.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Elpidia Saavedra, and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Juan Ceja, Naila Duval, and Clara Jiménez.  
Absent: Councilmember George Garcia.  
Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, and City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas).

CC Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, and Councilmembers Belton, Ceja, Duval, and Jiménez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Garcia was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Ceja to excuse Councilmember Garcia from the January 3, 2022 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

CC Riojas administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmembers Elpidia Saavedra for Position #1, Juan Ceja for Position #2 and Clara Jiménez for Position #3, for the term of office from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025.

**SELECT MAYOR FOR 2022 AND 2023**

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra called for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2022 and 2023. Councilmember Duval nominated Councilmember Jiménez. Councilmember Ceja nominated Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra closed nominations for the position of Mayor.

Votes for the position of Mayor were as follows:

Councilmember Jiménez: Councilmember Duval and Councilmember Jiménez

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra: Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, Councilmember Belton and Councilmember Ceja

Councilmember Belton inquired whether a super majority was required to select the Mayor. To prevent delay, Councilmember Jiménez changed her vote to be for Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra. It was later determined that a simple majority was required to select the Mayor. Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra was elected as Mayor and continued presiding over the meeting.

## **SELECT MAYOR PRO TEMPORE FOR 2022 AND 2023**

Mayor Saavedra called for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem for 2022 and 2023. Councilmember Jiménez nominated Councilmember Duval. Councilmember Ceja nominated Councilmember Jiménez. Mayor Saavedra closed nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Votes for the position of Mayor Pro Tem were as follows:

Councilmember Duval: Councilmember Belton and Councilmember Duval

Councilmember Jiménez: Mayor Saavedra, Councilmember Ceja and Councilmember Jiménez

Councilmember Jiménez was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

## **SEATING OF COUNCIL**

The Councilmembers, according to seniority, chose their seating arrangement.

## **SELECT MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES FOR 2022 AND 2023**

### **Boards and Commissions Selection Committee – 3 Members**

Mayor Saavedra, Councilmember Duval and Councilmember Garcia to serve on the Boards and Commissions Selection Committee.

### **Cable Regulation Board – 1 Member, 1 Alternate**

Councilmember Belton agreed to be the member and Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez as the alternate to serve on the Cable Regulation Board.

### **Driving Rural Yakima Valley Economy – 1 Member, 1 Alternate**

Councilmember Belton agreed to be the member and Councilmember Garcia as the alternate to serve on the Driving Rural Yakima Valley Economy.

### **Lodging Tax Advisory Committee – 1 Member**

Mayor Saavedra agreed to serve on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

### **Public Safety Committee – 3 Members, 1 Alternate**

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez, Councilmember Ceja and Councilmember Duval agreed to be the members and Mayor Saavedra as the alternate to serve on the Public Safety Committee.

### **Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, if Asked**

Mayor Saavedra agreed to be the member and Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez as the alternate to serve on the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, if asked.

**Yakima County Gang Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate**

Councilmember Belton agreed to be the member and Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez as the alternate to serve on the Yakima County Gang Commission.

**Yakima County-Wide Planning Policy Committee – 1 Member**

Councilmember Belton agreed to serve on the Yakima County-Wide Planning Policy Committee.

**SELECT YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS  
MEMBER AND ALTERNATE FOR 2022**

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez agreed to be the member and Councilmember Duval as the alternate to represent the City for 2022 with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments.

**DISCUSS ESTABLISHING NEW CITY COUNCIL RULES COMMITTEE**

After discussion by Council regarding establishing a new City Council Rules Committee, it was decided rather than create a new committee for Council to instead review sections of the Governance Manual and make updates as needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

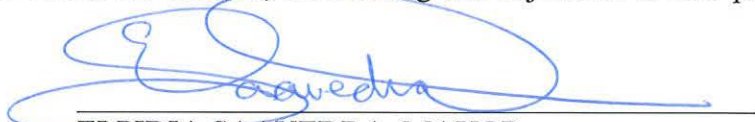
At 5:45 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of review performance of City Manager for 30 minutes with potential action.

At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the session back to order.

Mayor Saavedra noted that Council will meet in Executive Session at the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting for the purpose of review performance of City Manager for 30 minutes with potential action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

  
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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

  
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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK